

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5112

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0573

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH

SUBJ: ZANU/MUGABE VIEWS ON RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT

SUMMARY: SIMON MZENDA, ROBERT MUGABE'S LUSAKA DEPUTY, STILL HOPES THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO GET RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY AGAIN BUT CAUTIONS THAT ANY PROPOSALS ADVANCED MUST BE IN WRITING. ABSENCE OF WRITTEN PROPOSALS BY BRITISH AT GENEVA HAD GENERATED SUSPICION AS HAD THE FAILURE OF RICHARD TO BE PROVIDED WITH WRITTEN PROPOSALS AFTER THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE CONFERENCE. DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMITH ARE UNACCEPTABLE, BUT HE MIGHT PARTICIPATE AS A PART OF BRITISH DELEGATION AT FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. A REFERENDUM RUN BY SMITH IS UNACCEPTABLE. BRITISH AND AMERICANS SHOULD PRESSURE VORSTER TO PRESSURE SMITH INTO CAPITULATING. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PRINCIPAL POINTS OF INTEREST COVERED IN A CONVERSATION BETWEEN AN EMBOFF AND MZENDA MARCH 1.

2. ZANU STILL HOPES THAT RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT MAY BE POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, MZENDA HAD NO IDEAS ON HOW THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS MIGHT BE GOTTEN

UNDERWAY. IT IS UP TO THE AMERICANS AND BRITISH TO COME FORWARD WITH PROPOSALS. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE THESE UNDER CONSIDERATION. ANY PROPOSALS SHOULD BE IN WRITING AND SHOULD BE CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS.

3. MZENDA RETURNED TIME AND AGAIN TO THE NEED FOR WRITTEN PROPOSALS IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO HAVE A CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING. IN HIS VIEW THE CLIMATE AT GENEVA HAD BEEN SOURED BY THE FAILURE OF THE BRITISH TO ADVANCE IN WRITING CONCRETE PROPOSALS WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE NATIONALISTS. FURTHER, RHODESIAN FRONT REPS AT GENEVA CONSTANTLY REFERRED TO THE SMITH STATEMENT OF SEPT 24, 1976 AS THE BASIS FOR THEIR BEING AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. HOWEVER, THE PROPOSITIONS ADVANCED IN SMITH'S STATEMENT HAD NEVER FORMALLY BEEN PLACED BEFORE THE PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION. THIS COULD ONLY LEAD THE SUSPICIONS AS TO SMITH'S REAL INTENT, ESPECIALLY SINCE SMITH IN HIS RADIO ADDRESS OF SEPT 4 HAD REFERRED TO "UNDERSTANDINGS" BETWEEN HIMSELF AND SECRETARY KISSINGER WHICH WERE PART OF THE AGREED PACKAGE DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT BUT WHICH COULD NOT BE REVEALED. THIS RELUCTANCE TO PUT PROPOSITIONS IN WRITING CONTINUED AFTER THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BY ITS REFUSAL TO EQUIP RICHARD WITH WRITTEN PROPOSALS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO TAKE HIS AFRICAN "SHUTTLE" SERIOUSLY. WHEN HE FINALLY DID GET SOMETHING IN WRITING, IT WAS TOO LATE. BY THEN RICHARD HAD LET SMITH UNILATERALLY SUSPEND THE GENEVA TALKS.

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4. MZENDA EXCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT PATRIOTIC FRONT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMITH. HE ADVANCED THE WELL-WORN ARGUMENT THAT SMITH IS A REBEL AND THAT THE BRITISH NOT SMITH ARE THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO RHODESIA. WITH SOME RELUCTANCE, HE ADMITTED THAT SMITH AS THE DE FACTO HOLDER OF POWER IN RHODESIA MIGHT HAVE SOME ROLE TO PLAY IN NEGOTIATIONS. HE AND THE RHODESIAN FRONT MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IF THEY WERE CONSIDERED AS A PART OF A BRITISH DELEGATION TO ANY TALKS.

5. A REFERENDUM SUPERVISED BY THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. NO AFRICAN COULD HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE IN THE FAIRNESS OF A REFERENDUM RUN BY AN ILLEGAL GOVERNMENT WHOSE LEADER HAS A TRACK RECORD OF DEVIUSNESS EXTENDING OVER 12 YEARS. THE ONLY WAY A REFERENDUM COULD HAVE MEANING WOULD BE IF ALL POLITICAL DETAINEES WERE RELEASED AND ALL THOSE IN EXILE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO RHODESIA. IF ALL POLITICAL ELEMENTS WERE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE AND IF A REFERENDUM TOOK PLACE

UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION, IT MIGHT HAVE SOME
VALIDITY.

6. FINALLY, MZENDA SAID THAT THE US AND THE UK COULD BE
HELPFUL IN BRINGING THE ARMED STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA TO AN
END. THEIR ROLE IS TO PRESSURE VORSTER TO PRESSURE SMITH
TO CAPITULATE. LOW

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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